UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.237/23
20 November 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Sixth session
Geneva, 7 - 10 December 1992
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

REVIEW OF EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND TO SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

1. By its resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, paragraph 10, the General Assembly decided to establish "a special voluntary fund, administered by the head of the ad hoc secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to ensure that developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, as well as small island developing countries, are able to participate fully and effectively in the negotiating process". Governments, regional economic integration organizations and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, in particular UNDP, UNEP and WMO, have been called upon by the Assembly and/or the Committee to contribute generously to the special voluntary fund.

2. In paragraph 5 of its resolution INC/1992/1 of 9 May 1992, the Committee appealed "to Governments and organizations to make voluntary contributions to the extrabudgetary funds established under General Assembly resolution 45/212 in order to ... ensure full and effective participation of developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing countries, as well as developing countries stricken by drought and desertification, in all sessions of the Committee;".

3. The present report brings up to date the information provided in the previous report on the subject (A/AC.237/20).

GE.92-63266

4. The current state of pledges and receipts for the special voluntary fund is shown in Annex 1.A. The total sum available through the fund is approximately $US 2.6 million. Annex 1.B shows other contributions that have been made to support the participation of developing countries, to the secretariat or in consultation with it. The total of the contributions shown in the two tables is of the order of $US 2.9 million.

5. The contributions shown in Annex 1.B, while not passing through the special voluntary fund, are nevertheless intended to cover costs that would otherwise be borne by that fund. They may therefore be considered as if they had been contributed to the fund.

6. The commitments from the special voluntary fund for financing participation in the Committee's sessions up to the fifth session (second part), including provision for programme support costs at 13 per cent, amount to an estimated US$ 2.1 million. It is estimated that the costs for financing participation in the sixth session will be in the range of US$400,000 - US$500,000. This will account for all the money contributed to the fund after current pledges are paid in. Consequently, additional contributions will be required to finance participation in further sessions of the Committee.

7. In making arrangements to support participation in the sixth session of the Committee, the secretariat has reviewed the list of developing countries offered access to the special voluntary fund. This list is derived from a measure of gross domestic product (GDP) per head, as an indicator of a country's need for support in the context of the criteria set by the General Assembly and the Committee. The secretariat's review was motivated by the availability of updated statistics of GDP per head and by representations by the delegations of a number of developing countries that have not had access to the fund. The latter highlighted the difficulties faced by their authorities in financing the participation of delegates from their capitals in the Committee. The review took account of the level of contributions to the special voluntary fund.

8. As a result of its review, the secretariat has offered support for participation in the sixth session to 113 developing countries having a GDP per head of US$3,500 or less in 1989.1/ In setting the new GDP indicator, the secretariat has borne in mind the GDP per head of Central and Eastern European countries now receiving support for participation in the Committee (see para. 10 below.) The new list of countries includes all the least developed countries, as well as most developing countries stricken by drought and desertification. Since the Convention is still open for signature, no distinction has been made, in

---

1/ The previous list comprised 101 developing countries.

determining this list, between signatories of the Convention and other countries. These arrangements will be kept under review.

9. Four Caribbean island developing countries were offered support by the Caribbean Environment Programme of UNEP for participation in the second part of the fifth session of the Committee. Funds for this purpose, amounting to US$20,000, were provided by the William Penn Foundation, a non-profit foundation established in the USA, through the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute, a non-governmental research institute operating in the Eastern Caribbean sub-region. They were intended to finance participation by small island countries that did not have access to the special voluntary fund.

10. The Government of Switzerland has contributed approximately $US100,000 to the secretariat to support the participation of delegates from certain countries of Central and Eastern Europe in the second part of the fifth session and in the sixth session of the Committee. These contributions are additional to the contributions from Switzerland for the participation of developing countries.

II. TRUST FUND FOR THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS

11. The General Assembly, by its resolution 45/212, paragraph 20, decided "that the negotiating process shall be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to a trust fund established specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations". It also invited "WMO and the UNEP and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including those in the field of development", to make appropriate contributions to the negotiating process, including its funding"; Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations were similarly invited "to contribute generously to the fund" (paras. 21 and 22).

12. As shown in Annex 2, contributions paid or pledged to the trust fund now total approximately $US 420,000.

13. Support for the staffing of the secretariat continues to be provided by WMO and through bilateral arrangements with Governments. WMO has assigned a senior scientific officer at the D-1 level and two General Service staff. Bilateral support from France for a scientific assistant (L-2 level) extends until mid-1993, when a new arrangement may be made. Discussions are under way with Norway and Sweden on finance for the second year of a legal assistant (L-2) from a developing country. The arrangement with Canada, supporting the L-4 post of a communications and media officer, ended in September 1992. The

assignment of a senior programme officer is under discussion with another bilateral contributor.

14. The legal advisor (P-4) assigned from UNEP returned to Nairobi in August 1992; he has been made available to the secretariat for a further five weeks to help with work for the sixth session of the Committee. The secretariat has been advised, on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, that further staff support by UNEP will need to be mandated, as in the past, by the General Assembly and, as appropriate, by the Governing Council of UNEP.

III. FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

15. The maintenance of the two extra-budgetary funds established by General Assembly resolution 45/212 will be indispensable for the effective functioning of the interim arrangements. This matter is before the current session of the General Assembly. It would be desirable for the extension of these funds to cover the needs of the first session of the Conference of the Parties.

16. Finance for the participation of developing and other countries will remain important while work on the Convention moves into a more technical mode. This phase of work will attract less public and political attention than did the highly visible negotiation phase in the context of the "Earth Summit". The availability of funding will help to counteract problems that governments might face in maintaining the priority of their participation in work on the Convention.

17. An overview of the secretariat's projected activities in the interim phase is contained in the report by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on future work in the field of climate change (A/47/466, paras 28-32). Extra-budgetary finance for secretariat expenses, supplementing that available from the regular budget of the United Nations, will provide needed flexibility to the secretariat in responding to the substantive needs of the interim phase. It is likely to be particularly useful in mobilizing external expertise, in providing an efficient information flow to delegations and other participants, in planning and organizing technical cooperation activities in support of the Convention and in maintaining communications with the media and NGOs.

18. Staff support from United Nations programmes and specialized agencies, as well as through bilateral arrangements with Governments, will continue to be welcome. Efforts by bilateral contributors to ensure that the qualifications of staff offered on assignment correspond to the needs of the secretariat are particularly appreciated. It is hoped that some bilateral staff support arrangements will leave the choice of the incumbents to the secretariat, as was the case with support from Norway and

Sweden. This will help maintain the geographical diversity of the secretariat.

19. While staffing arrangements, measured in years of assignment, offer a predictable basis for planning, contributions to the two extra-budgetary funds have so far been unpredictable. It would be most helpful to the secretariat if contributors to these funds could pledge contributions for at least a year at a time.

20. For the time being, the estimate of finance needed in the special voluntary fund for participation in 1993 may be maintained at US$ 1 million. This would cover participation in two two-week sessions or meeting periods. This estimate will need to be revised once the Committee has set its programme of work and its calendar of meetings. More money would be needed to cover travel costs if sessions were briefer but more frequent.

21. The extra-budgetary funding needs of the secretariat in 1993 will depend on the work programme of the Committee and on the provisions made in the regular budget of the United Nations. The secretariat will bring the Committee up to date on the funding situation during its sixth session.

Annex 1

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Status of contributions as of 18 November 1992[1]

A. Contributions to Special Voluntary Fund
(General Assembly resolution 45/212, paragraph 10)

Contributor	Pledge (outstanding)	Receipt (or in pipeline)[2]
Austria (x3)	$US25,000	$US 40,000 8 August 1991 $US 25,000 28 August 1991
Canada (x2)		$US 30,085.16 29 March 1991 $US 84,745.76
Commission of the European Communities	ECU 50 000 ($US 60,000)	$US 63,580 27 August 1992
Denmark (x3)	$US75,000	$US 100,000 23 April 1991 $US 50,000 4 March 1992
Finland		$US 104,866.77 20 March 1991

1/ Figures in brackets are approximate equivalents in United States dollars.

2/ Where the date of receipt is not given, payment has been reported but the secretariat has not yet received a copy of the receipt issued by United Nations Headquarters.

Contributor	Pledge (outstanding)	Receipt (or in pipeline)[2/]
France (x5)	FF 300 000 ($US 54 000)	$US 34,782.61 16 April 1991 $US 36,413.29 25 November 1991 $US 18,065.21 27 January 1992 $US 59,642.15 25 September 1992
Germany (x3)		$US100,000 27 August 1991 $US 32,292.12 July 1992 $US150,505.27 11 September 1992
Greece		$US 10,000
Ireland		$US 10,000 3 July 1991
Netherlands (x2)	$US60,000	$US150,000 12 September 1991
Norway (x3)	NKR100,000 ($US15,000)	$US 49,985.00 23 March 1991 $US 31,048.14 27 November 1991
Spain (x3)		$US 54,644.80 15 April 1991 $US 19,612.84 3 January 1992 $US 48,058.00 14 May 1992
Sweden (x3)	US$80,000	$US 86,058.51 14 March 1991 $US 85,873.76 19 February 1992

Contributor	Pledge (outstanding)	Receipt (or in pipeline)[2/]
Switzerland*/ (x2)	$US80,000	$US210,896.31 10 April 1991
Turkey		$US 3 000 5 April 1991
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (x5)	stg.20,000 ($US34,000)	$US 43,312.50 4 April 1991 $US 50,682 10 September 1991 $US 35,959.00 21 September 1992 $US53,961.00 22 September 1992
United States of America (x3)		$US 50,000 18 June 1991 $US100,000 June 1992 $US50,000 5 October 1992
World Meteorological Organization		$US 34,698.13 20 April 1991
Totals	**$US483,000**	**$US2,107,768.33**
TOTAL FINANCE THROUGH SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND (approx.)		**$US2,600,000.00**

*/ See also para.10 of this document.

B. Other contributions made to or in consultation with the secretariat

Contributor	Pledge (outstanding)	Receipt (or in pipeline)[2/]
Japan		$US200,000[3/]
United Nations Development Programme		($US100,000)[4/]
TOTAL FINANCE		**$US300,000**

3/ Contributions paid from the Japanese Trust Fund for International Cooperation for Development to finance travel to and participation in pre-session seminars and training activities.

4/ Offered to participants from 20 developing countries selected by UNDP.

Annex 2

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPORT THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS
Status of contributions as of 18 November 1992 [1/]

A. Contributions to Trust fund
(General Assembly resolution 45/212, paragraph 20)

Contributor	Pledge (outstanding)	Receipt (or in pipeline)[2/]
Commission of the European Communities (X2)	ECU50,000 ($US60,000)	$US 63,580 27 August 1992
France		$US 18,065.21 27 January 1992
Netherlands		$US 31,018.04 13 July 1992
Norway		$US 15,341.00 30 April 1992
Switzerland (x2)		$US 34,734.28 5 February 1992 $US149,985.00 14 July 1992
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		$US 52,629.53
Totals	**($US60,000)**	**$US364,590**

1/ Figures in brackets are approximate equivalents in United States dollars.

2/ Where the date of receipt is not given, payment has been reported but the secretariat has not yet received a copy of the receipt issued by United Nations Headquarters.